

May 24, 2003  
Recessed Meeting

Minutes

Members Present: 5

Members Absent: 0

Lloyd Davis- Chairman  
Brent Hunter- Vice Chairman  
Josh Baity - Commissioner  
Johnny Myers- Commissioner  
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present:

Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board

Chairman Davis called the recessed meeting to order. Commissioner Swaim had the invocation.

Minutes

Sheriff

Chairman Davis welcomed Sheriff Cain to the budget work session and thanked him and his staff for coming.

The Board explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss his department's budget and the county's need to cut expenses.

The Board and the Sheriff discussed his overall budget with particular interest on his request for cars, COPS and Detective positions.

It was explained that each of the six detectives were working 30 to 40 cases each. The Sheriff was also questioned concerning uniform replacements and gun purchases.

The Board encouraged the Sheriff to reapply for the COPS grant.

Department of Social Services

The Board welcomed Mr. Black and thanked him for coming.

Group Home- one full-time position was cut, however part-time salaries had to be increased. All other items are associated with the operation of the group home and are budgeted to cover operational expenses.

DSS- Mr. Black pointed out that the medicaid cost, county portion, is still a major cost for DSS. A substantial part of this money is used to cover the costs of elderly services. Children are the next largest user group of medicaid. The medicaid caseload is up 30%. Mr. Black stated he is asking for no new employees in the budget. Upon being questioned by the Board about additional cuts, Mr. Black indicated that it would be possible to cut a part-time Office Assistant III position due the changes in the county's personnel system.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to eliminate the part-time Office Assistant II position. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

### **Tax Administration**

The Board welcomed Ms. Adams and thanked her for coming.

The Board asked how Ms. Adams planned to cut costs in her department?

Ms. Adams stated she planned to cut a position.

The Board inquired as what other actions Ms Adams had considered. Ms. Adams pointed out that she had cut requested vehicles out of the Reval budget.

The Board inquired as to the need for vehicles. Ms. Adams stated there were three appraisers but only two vehicles; there is a need for an additional vehicle. The Board instructed that all available vehicles could be used on an as needed basis.

There was general discussion concerning the operation of the department. The Board assured Ms. Adams that she has their support.

### **Register of Deeds**

The Board thanked Ms. Wagoner for coming.

The Board inquired on how Ms. Wagoner could cut expenses in her department.

Ms. Wagoner explained that there are only four people in the department and they are recording 200-300 sheets per day, plus doing research, making copies and scanning documents into the new system.

The Board asked what effect losing an employee would have on the department?

Ms. Wagoner stated that there would be longer waits to provide service to the public and the scanning would be delayed.

Ms. Wagoner was informed to cut her budget.

### **Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development**

The Board thanked Mr. Todd for coming.

Mr. Todd explained how his job worked involving duties as the Executive for the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Developer. Mr. Todd explained part of our funding goes to cover the operation of his office and another allocation is reserved each year for projects.

The Board asked what effect cutting our contribution in half would have on the operation of his office?

Mr. Todd replied that he would do the best job he could with what he is given.

### **Schools**

The Board thanked the Board of Education members and Staff for coming.

Ms. Mendenhall, Chairperson, explained the budget requests for the schools. The main items of the budget would be to increase the local supplement and transferring personnel that were cut in state budget to local funding. Presently there are five or six teachers who are locally funded. Most locally funded positions are clerical positions and maintenance positions which are at a lower salary grade than teachers. There is also a requested increase in the coaching supplement. Under capital outlay the school system has roofing needs, upgrade requirements for sewer systems, technology upgrades and replacements and replacement of the fencing around athletic fields. Chairperson Mendenhall reminded the board how important good schools are to the county and also expressed the Board of Education's commitment to work with the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Agriculture Extension**

The Board thanked Mr. Loudermilk for coming.

Mr. Loudermilk stated that his budget reductions came from salaries. He offered to go over his budget with the Board but there was nothing left to cut.

### **Libraries**

The Board welcomed Mr. Sawyer and his Staff and thanked them for coming.

Mr. Sawyer stated their request was a hold- the- line request plus an additional \$9,000 for the Boonville Library. Mr. Sawyer distributed information comparing Yadkin County with other counties our size on library expenditures and provided information showing the worth of a

library to a community. Mr. Sawyer stated the library is audited each year.

The Board asked Mr. Sawyer to reduce his budget requests by 10 percent.

### **Services & Development**

The Board welcomed and thanked Mr. Adams for coming.

### **Planning**

Mr. Adams explained to the Board how the restructuring had added additional positions in the planning budget and discussed the extra workload associated with zoning activities. Mr. Adams assured the Board that he has been very conservative with his requests and had tried to consider alternatives.

### **Inspections**

Mr. Adams stated he had cut ten percent out of the inspections budget.

The Board instructed Mr. Adams to cut two positions from the planning and inspection areas.

### **Land Records-**

Mr. Adams explained the budget reduction was due to the elimination of a new plotter in mapping. The plotter was needed in the revaluation process to produce large numbers of maps.

The Board instructed Mr. Adams to investigate the potential of a short-term lease.

### **EMS**

The Board welcomed Dale Trivette and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Adams discussed several possible changes in the EMS area. Mr. Adams proposed contracting out the billing operations for EMS. Several counties have tried this and experienced an increase in revenue collections. If the Board approved this proposal, it could be implemented by mid-year. This would save one half of one position. Mr. Adams also proposed that Mr. Trivette be given full-time responsibility in emergency management. This would allow the county to recoup one-half of Mr. Trivette's salary from the state. In addition to emergency management duties, Mr. Trivette would spend time applying for grants which are available through emergency management and also assist with the management of EMS.

The Board directed Mr. Adams to pursue these actions.

### **Animal Control**

## **300**

Mr. Adams stated he had eliminated the additional animal control position which would have been needed to run the new animal shelter.

### **Solid Waste**

Mr. Adams discussed cost saving measures for the solid waste area. Savings were accomplished through the elimination of one full-time position.

The Board instructed Mr. Adams to reduce expenses at the recycling centers in the most practical way.

Mr. Adams reported cutting hours of operation would be the most practical way to reduce expenses.

The Board instructed Mr. Adams to develop a plan.

### **Council on Aging**

The Board welcomed Bob Minnich and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Minnich gave an overview of the responsibilities of the Council on Aging and the services they provide. Mr. Minnich gave justification for the dollars spent on services for the elderly.

### **Parks & Recreation**

The Board welcomed Phil Martin and thanked him for coming.

Mr. Martin discussed the operation of the park and pool with the Board. Mr. Martin explained his expenses and how the money benefitted the county.

### **YVEDDI**

The Board welcomed Joanne Larkins and Staff and thanked them for coming.

Ms. Larkins gave an overview of the programs sponsored by YVEDDI and demonstrated how the county's expenditures are benefitting the citizens of the county.

The Board asked what would the effect of reducing the senior center allocations by \$10,000?

Ms. Larkins responded that she would need time to answer that question.

The Board instructed that \$10,000 be cut from each senior center pending information from Ms. Larkins.

### **Health Department**

The Board welcomed and thanked Ms. Brown for coming.

Ms. Brown reviewed the needs of the health department. Ms. Brown pointed out that she had removed two vacant positions from her budget.

The Board inquired about the need for the HIPPA clerk.

Ms. Brown and the Board discussed the HIPPA regulations.

The Board's directive was to remove the HIPPA position from the budget.

The Board inquired as to the need for the vehicle in Environmental Health.

Ms. Brown explained the vehicle has over 200,000 miles and is an older model and is uncertain if it will last another year.

The Board inquired as to whether Ms. Brown had money in the 02/03 budget to purchase a vehicle.

Ms. Brown replied yes.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to purchase a vehicle form the 02/03 budget and remove the request from the 03/04 budget. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

### **Arts Council-**

The Board welcomed Kathy Titus and thanked her for coming.

Ms. Titus provide the Board with information concerning activities of the Arts Council.

\*Commissioner Myers made a motion to budget \$2,000 for the Arts Council. Commissioner Baity seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

### **Information Services**

The Board welcomed and thanked Chuck Goad for coming.

Mr. Goad provided the Board with an update on computer activities and his suggestions for computer projects for the next year.

After reviewing possible projects and based on Mr. Goad's recommendations, the Board eliminated funding for IIS enhancements and for an office desk.

**Richmond Hill Law School**

The Board welcomed and thanked Thomas Wooten for coming.

The Board discussed the operating costs at Richmond Hill and who was responsible for overseeing the operation.

The Board also discussed the legal ownership of Richmond Hill.

\*Commissioner Myers made the motion to table the funding request from Richmond Hill. Commissioner Swaim seconded. **The Board voted 3-2. Commissioner Baity and Hunter opposed.**

**Finance**

The Board welcomed and thanked Sheron Church for coming.

The Board inquired into the status of the financial software programs and their effectiveness.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to eliminate one position. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

**Elections**

The Board welcomed and thanked Janet Choplin for coming.

Ms Choplin explained to the Board the costs of having an election and expressed her concerns that if there is a separate presidential primary or run-off elections, the budget may not be sufficient to cover the costs.

Ms. Choplin and the Board discussed alternatives to cover departmental expenses.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to cut the Elections' department budget by 10 percent. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

**Elder Affairs**

The Board welcomed and thanked Doris Dick for coming.

The Board reviewed the allocation to Elder Affairs and thanked Ms. Dick for her efforts.

**Surry Community College**

The Board welcomed and thanked Wayne Matthews for coming.

The Board expressed their appreciation for having the Yadkin Center of Surry Community College open and operating. The Board reviewed the county's commitment to fund the operating expenses of the Yadkin Center. After reviewing the proposed budget, \*Commissioner Baity made the motion to cut Surry Community College budget request by 10 percent. Commissioner Swaim seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

The Board directed that any funds for the driving range project be withdrawn and the project considered next year.

### **Rescue Squad**

Wayne Matthews, Captain of the Rescue Squad, discussed with the Board the needs of the Rescue Squad.

The Board thanked Mr. Matthews for all of the assistance provided to EMS by the squad.

After reviewing the equipment needs, \*Commissioner Baity made the motion to reduce the Rescue Squad appropriation by 10 percent. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

### **Crossroads Mental Health**

The Board welcomed and thanked Gary McKinna for coming.

Gary McKinna, representative for Crossroads, informed the Board that the State had accepted our Local Business Plan and that in addition to the appropriation for Crossroads, the Mental Health Board is requesting a one time gift from each county for the cost of developing the Plan.

The Board requested an update on the State's mental health revision plan and what effects this would have on client services for Yadkin County citizens. The extent of the modifications required by the State are not yet clearly known, therefore is difficult to identify the exact effect the county will experience.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to ask Mr. Swann to show what effect a 10 percent cut could possibly have, Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

### **Soil and Water**

The Board welcomed and thanked Jason Walker for coming.

The Board reviewed the Soil and Water budget and looked at the reserve funds for the 5-D



Project and maintenance of the current watershed facilities.

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to cut capital outlay by \$3,100. Commissioner Swaim seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

**Commissioner comments**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to deny funding for the COPS positions and ask that the Sheriff's Department reapply for the grant at a later date. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Myers made the motion not to pick-up funding for the two detective positions funded through a grant. Commissioner Swaim seconded. **The Board voted 3-2.**  
**Commissioners Hunter and Davis opposed.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to reduce funding to the Sheriff's Department equal to the amount of a secretarial position. This reduction could be cuts in funding or the elimination of a position. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Chairman Davis made the motion to cut an additional 5 percent from the Department of Social Services budget. Commissioner Baity seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to cut funding to the Health Department equal to the salary of an inspector. This reduction could be in the form of cuts or the elimination of a position. Commissioner Myers seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to park all county vehicles and not allow home to work usage, exempt from this will be the Fire Marshal and the Animal Control officer on call. Chairman Davis seconded. **The Board voted 5-0. This is effective June 1, 2003.**

Commissioner Myers discussed with the Board his thoughts on the Commissioners' forfeiting their pay for the 2003-2004 budget year.

\*Commissioner Myers made the motion to cut 10 percent from the Manager's recommendation on funding for the schools. Commissioner Baity seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing pending legal actions. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to allow our attorney to negotiate a price on the

properties in condemnation prior to a court ordered settlement. Any negotiated price must be approved by the Board and the attorney may consult with the Chairman during negotiation. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 4-1. Commissioner Myers opposed.**

**Adjournment**

\*Commissioner Baity made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. **The Board voted 5-0.**

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Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board